

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed May 18, 2005. Claims 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 54 and 60 are currently pending in this Application. Claim 44 has been amended herein to define the invention. Thus, Claims 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 54 and 60 are currently pending in this Application. As discussed more fully below, Applicants believe that the Application is in condition for allowance, and that all rejections and objections have been overcome.

In a voice mail receive by Applicants from Examiner Tri Mai on June 1, 2005, Examiner Mai noted that the Office Action mailed May 18, 2005 incorrectly listed the Office Action as a final office action, and Examiner Mai instructed Applicants to make reference to note Examiner Mai's voice mail in this response. Applicants agree with Examiner Mai that the Office Action of May 18, 2005 incorrectly listed it as a final action even though the grounds of rejection were all new, and that such final action should be withdrawn.

OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS

The Examiner objected to the drawings and indicated that "the outer cloth material (cl. 46) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s)." Applicants submit herewith a revised drawing sheet for Figure 5 that includes a cross-hatched area that represents the outer cloth material, which was previously present but not highlighted as now shown. A proposed replacement/corrected drawing sheet is attached for consideration and entry in this Application.

Applicants note that in paragraph 0038 of the application as published on May 22, 2003 as United States Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0096660 A1, it states in connection with Figure 5 that "[t]he embodiment of the outer cover 12 of FIG. 5 is shown as a one piece polyethylene foam with a cloth covering. The side of the outer cover 12 with the cloth covering is visible in FIG. 5." Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added, and that this submission overcomes the objection to the drawings. Applicant respectfully request entry of the attached replacement/corrected drawing sheet.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected Claims 44, 46, 54 and 60 under Section 103 based on Carswell (5927489) or Verge (5419477) in view of Shih (6138727); Claim 45 based on either Carswell or Verge in view of Lamonakis et al. (5372414); Claims 44, 46, 47 and 48 based on either Carswell or Verge in view of Solheim (4667716); Claim 48 based on either Carswell or Verge in view of Sessler (3913648); and Claim 60 based on either Carswell or Verge in view of Lamonakis et al. (5372414).

Claim 44, which all remaining claims depend from, recites the following limitation:

the moisture absorbent member operable to receive the grip on the shaft of the golf club through the opening formed at the bottom portion of the outer foam layer while the outer foam layer continuously covers the moisture absorbent member and the moisture absorbent member substantially surrounds the grip,

None of the cited references, including Carswell, Verge, Shih, Lamonakis et al., Solheim, and Sessler, nor any of the previously cited references in this Application, teach, describe or even suggest the limitation highlighted below. Support for these limitations can be found at various locations in the Specification, the Drawings and the Claims, as originally filed.

For example, Carswell, Verge and Lamonakis et al. all include an outer cover that provides protection for a portion of a towel or towels, but the cover does not protect or cover the towel in use. Further, neither Shih, Solheim, nor Sessler teach, describe or suggest the structure as claimed in Claim 44.

None of the currently or previously cited references, either individually or in combination, disclose, describe, teach or contemplate the claim limitation highlighted above. As such, the structural limitations of Claims 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 54 and 60 render these claims patentably distinct. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw these rejections.

Applicants respectfully submit that this Application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the Examiner allow currently pending Claims 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 54 and 60.

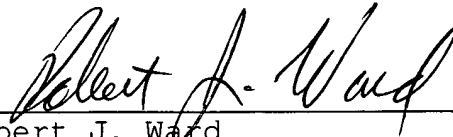
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the Application is in condition for allowance, and Applicants earnestly seek such allowance of pending Claims 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 54 and 60. Should the Examiner have any questions or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this Application, please contact Applicants at 214.828.7387. Applicants stand ready to conduct a telephone interview with the Examiner to review this Application if the Examiner believes that such an interview would assist in the advancement of this Application.

To the extent that any further fees are required during the pendency of this Application, including petition fees, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees, including, without limitation, any fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, to the credit card identified in the previously submitted *Credit Card Payment Form* and reference Attorney Docket No. INVSC.4. Please credit any overpayments to this same credit card.

This is intended to be a complete response to the Office
Action mailed May 18, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert J. Ward", is written over a horizontal line.

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